

ARTICLE APPEARED

ON PAGE A4.WASHINGTON POST
24 November 1985

Meritorious Doublespeak

Teachers Cite CIA, Philadelphia Officials

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23—The National Council of Teachers of English, meeting here this week, has given its 1985 Doublespeak Award to the CIA for its training manual explaining how to "neutralize" Nicaraguan officials.

The manual was voted this year's "most conspicuous example of language that is grossly deceptive, evasive, euphemistic, confusing or self-contradictory."

The CIA manual was prepared for contras fighting the Nicaraguan government.

Philadelphia city officials were singled out for special mention for insisting that an "entry device," and not a bomb, was dropped by police on the headquarters of the radical group MOVE May 13.

Doublespeak is the euphemistic language used by characters in the George Orwell novel "1984."

The Pentagon won second prize for statements made by Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "The Soviets demonstrated their defense against cruise missiles a couple of days ago when they shot down one of their errant missiles that was on its way into Finland," he said.

Dewey Claridge, former head of CIA clandestine operations in Latin America, won the third-place award for saying that CIA-backed contras who killed "civilians and Sandinista officials in the provinces, as well as heads of cooperatives, nurses, doctors and judges," did not violate President Reagan's order forbidding assassinations.

"These events do not constitute assassinations because as far as we are concerned, assassinations are only those of heads of state," Claridge said. "I leave definitions to the politicians."